

CHILD NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 99-805

TO: Summer Food Service Program Sponsors
All Schools Participating in the Summer Food
Service Program

ISSUE DATE: March 1999

FROM: Nutrition Standards Unit

ATTENTION: Food Service Program Sponsors, Food Service Directors

SUBJECT: Use of School Meals Initiative Menu Planning Options in the Summer Food
Service Program

REFERENCE: Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-336), Summer
Food Service Program (SFSP) Policy Memorandum #7-99 ("Meals Prepared
in Schools and Permissible Use of Offer Versus Serve"), Management
Bulletin (MB) 98-809, and MB 97-362.

This management bulletin transmits guidance regarding information on school meal requirements and permissible uses of the offer versus serve (OVS) option.

Requirements for Meals Prepared by Schools

The SMI menu-planning options which school districts use during the school year may continue to substitute for the meal requirements in the SFSP. Nonschool sponsors contracting with schools to provide meals may also use the SMI menu-planning option which the school district uses during the school year under the SFSP. Public Law 105-136 supports this position by indicating that ". . . schools should also have the same menu planning options for the SFSP that school meals enjoy. This simplifies the menu planning process and maintains consistency among programs."

As previously required, **there are no optional planning alternatives for snacks served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).** Therefore, snacks served under the NSLP and SFSP must follow the meal pattern requirement for supplements, which is the same for both programs.

Permissible Use of the "Offer versus Serve" Option

Until now, the OVS option was made available to school sponsors operating the SFSP on school grounds on the basis that the option was regularly implemented by the school food authority during the school year. Section 105 (c) of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 further amended the National School Lunch Act to make the OVS option available to **all** SFSP sites sponsored by a school food authority, regardless of the location of those sites. This option is available only to SFSP sites that regularly implement OVS during the school year.

The breakfast meal pattern for the SFSP requires that only three components be served at breakfast. However, if the OVS option is used at breakfast, four components must be offered as required in the School Breakfast Program. The child may then decline one component, and the meal will be reimbursable.

If you have any question regarding this information or on training opportunities in SMI Menu Planning Options, please contact Kathy Mackey, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 324-0578 or at the toll free number (800) 952-5609.

Marilyn Briggs, Acting Director
Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Division

Kathy B. Lewis
Deputy Superintendent
Child, Youth and Family Services Branch

Attachment

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a discrimination complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.